



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

2651/\$

In re application of : April 10, 2004

H. Asano et al.

Group Art Unit: 2651 : Examiner: Natalia Figueroa

Serial No.: 10/040,115 : Filed: 01/03/2002

Attorney Docket: ARC92001005US1 : Confirmation No.: 8776

#15
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9-13-04

Title: **MULTIPLE LEVEL (ML), INTEGRATED SECTOR FORMAT (ISF), ERROR
CORRECTION CODE (ECC) ENCODING AND DECODING PROCESSES FOR
DATA STORAGE OR COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND SYSTEMS**

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APR 23 2004
Technology Center 2600

Sir:

This paper is in response to an Office Action (paper 3) for the above-identified application mailed on December 10, 2003. Claims 1-9 are pending. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, and 9 are believed to be rejected as unpatentable over combinations of Tetsuya (EPO 0481752A1), Takashi (USPN 6519715), Lee (USPN 6405342), Ofer (USPN 5719885), and Hashimoto (USPN 5864440), and claims 3, 6, and 8 are believed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, though some clarification is needed here. Reconsideration of the rejections in view of Applicants' remarks below is respectfully requested.